

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces, without prejudice, all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
 - a U-shaped main body case having opposing side walls and other open portions and a relatively wide bottom wall,
 - a backlight unit housed in the main body, and
 - an optical member placed on the surfaces of both side walls of the main body case while covering the backlight unit,wherein the optical member is placed on the surfaces of both side walls of the main body case where the backlight unit is housed, and the outer periphery of the optical member is encased by reinforcing frames frame segments that are joined at corners to form a picture frame.

2. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 1, wherein said optical member has a light leakage preventive structure where the surface side edge of the outer periphery of the optical member is covered by the said reinforcing frames frame segments.

3. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 2, wherein the joints of said reinforcing ~~frames~~ frame segments are provided with light leakage preventive structures where the end portions of the reinforcing ~~frames~~ frame segments come into contact to each other.

4. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein a transparent thick reinforcing plate is disposed on the rear surface of the said optical member.

5. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein a liquid crystal display panel is placed on an assembly encased by said reinforcing ~~frames~~ frame segments and the liquid crystal display panel is affixed to the said main body case by an outer frame divided into several parts.

6. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 1, wherein a lamp-supporting stage of the said backlight unit is disposed at the open end of the said main body case, while a middle member is disposed on the lamp-supporting stage, and the said optical member is affixed to the main body case by the said reinforcing ~~frames~~ frame segments.